Ministry of Environment

Plan for 2018-19

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Dustin Duncan

Minister of Environment

Each year, the Ministry of Environment produces an annual plan that directs its work for the upcoming year and confirms its commitment to the people of Saskatchewan. I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment Plan for 2018-19.

Government Direction and Budget for 2018-19 is focused on keeping Saskatchewan On Track by controlling spending, delivering high quality services for Saskatchewan people, keeping our economy strong, and returning to balance in 2019-20.

The Ministry of Environment continues to ensure the environment is protected, communities are safe and balanced economic growth provides the best quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents. The 2018-19 plan describes how the ministry manages and protects Saskatchewan's environment and details the programs that bring these goals to life.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to keeping the province On Track through prudent fiscal management. We will succeed by spending wisely, supporting economic growth, and ensuring services are sustainable.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2018-19 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry of Environment's role is to manage the health of Saskatchewan's environment in a respectful, responsible and enforceable manner that balances growth with sustainable development through objective, transparent and informed decision-making and stewardship.

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Environment provides science-based solutions, compliance and mitigation measures aimed at protecting the environment, safeguarding communities and helping to ensure balanced economic growth and a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people
Meeting the challenges of growth
Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people
Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority: Protecting Saskatchewan's environment

Ministry Goal

A clean and safe environment for communities

Strategy

Ensure all communities have solid waste management solutions that address the challenges of growth.

Key Actions

- Implement a solid waste management strategy in collaboration with the solid waste advisory committee, partners and stakeholders.
- Increase participation in the Multi-Material Recycling Program.
- Support implementation of the new agricultural plastics recycling program.
- Develop and implement a household hazardous waste program.
- Continue stakeholder engagement and education to ensure communities with landfills avoid risk of contamination by complying with regulations.

Strategy

Minimize and respond to risks to human health and safety.

Key Actions

- Blend conservation officer capability and authorizations with other enforcement agencies as part of the new provincial Protection and Response Team to address public safety in rural communities and on highways.
- Build community resistance to wildfires by developing wildfire preparedness plans for all at-risk communities.
- Contain wildfires occurring within wildland urban interface (WUI) areas to minimize impacts on people and property.
- Work with the Ministries of Agriculture and Health to identify and monitor risks to human health, and to manage emerging diseases through the "One Health" program.

- Enhance the monitoring and reporting of Saskatchewan's air quality to the public through the Canada-wide Air Quality Management System.

Performance Measures

- Number of communities participating in Multi-Material Recycling Program
- Percentage of landfills monitoring landfill groundwater
- Percentage of WUI communities with fuel management programs and wildfire preparation plans

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people | **Meeting the challenges of growth** | Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people | Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority: Advancing Saskatchewan's natural resource strengths

Ministry Goal

Productive, resilient and biologically diverse landscapes

Strategy

Co-design programs and policies to protect the province's biodiversity.

Key Actions

- Develop and implement an invasive species and insect and disease management framework.
- Incorporate climate change adaptation considerations into planning, modelling and decision-making.
- Implement a holistic, issue-focused land use planning framework by 2020.
- Implement a new game management plan and initiate a habitat management plan.
- Participate in the development and implementation of a government-wide, integrated Crown land management system.

Strategy

Monitor and manage biodiversity and landscape health.

Key Actions

- Develop a landscape health assessment framework.
- Develop a risk framework for species at-risk.
- Complete a grassland habitat inventory to provide updated land cover and eco-site information.
- Develop and apply cumulative effects modelling tools tailored to Saskatchewan's landscape and priorities.

Performance Measures

- Percentage of forests renewed successfully following timber harvest
- Number of road/trail permits approved with reforestation requirements

- Forest age classification in commercial forest zone

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic Priority: Organizational improvement and innovation

Ministry Goal

Comprehensive, clear and transparent regulation

Strategy

Collaboratively design and implement results-based regulatory tools and processes to enhance environmental outcomes.

Key Actions

- Work with the Saskatchewan Environmental Code Advisory Committee to develop and implement new Code chapters that are based on risk, aligned with strategic priorities and responsive to federal regulatory changes.
- Review and coordinate environmental assessment requirements with the Federal Environmental Assessment Framework to ensure Saskatchewan's unique context is considered.
- Work with provincial and national agencies, and First Nations and Métis clients, to develop and implement fish and wildlife management policy and regulatory tools.

Strategy

Improve compliance planning inside and outside of the organization.

Key Actions

- Increase outreach and compliance education for high risks identified in the compliance plan.
- Implement a new law enforcement records management system with the Ministries of Justice, Highways and Infrastructure, Finance, Government Relations and the Global Transportation Hub.

Strategy

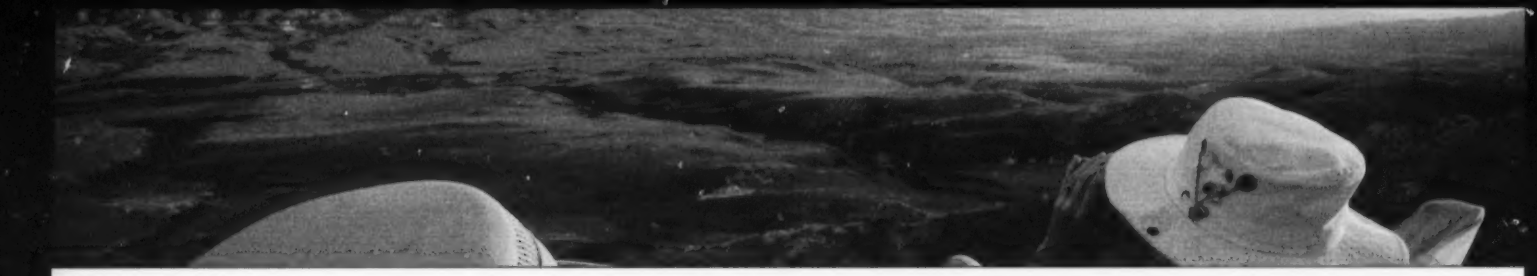
Implement commitments in the provincial climate change strategy.

Key Actions

- Create a regulatory framework to manage greenhouse gas emissions.
- Implement reporting and compliance standards for large emitters.
- Review carbon sequestration methodologies.
- Develop the model and measures of resiliency.

Performance Measures

- Provincial emissions intensity levels



Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic Priority: Protecting Saskatchewan's environment

Ministry Goal

Reduced risk and harm from adverse environmental impacts

Strategy

Use risk-based approach to ensure impacted sites are safely managed/remediated.

Key Actions

- Establish an overall contaminated sites inventory ranked according to risk.
- Enhance scorecard for tracking National Classification System for Contaminated Sites information to monitor change in compliance.
- Develop provincial forest mitigation framework for industry and the conservation community to avoid, minimize and offset adverse effects.

Strategy

Increase client knowledge of contamination, its impact and compliance obligations.

Key Actions

- Establish Environmental Compliance Management Systems with industrial clients including a scorecard for tracking information and monitoring change in risk at sites.
- Establish site conditions based on results of site assessments conducted by municipalities at all operating landfills.
- Conduct compliance audits and report on progress of corrective actions.
- Develop financial assurance guidance for regulated sites.

Strategy

Anticipate contamination incidents and minimize impacts.

Key Actions

- Ensure permit conditions of high-risk projects are met and with the appropriate mitigation measures in place.
- Establish a provincial air quality data management system that integrates industry and stakeholder data.

Performance Measures

- Percentage of landfills (operating and closed) with environmental site assessments
- Percentage of contaminated sites with National Classification System for Contaminated Sites ratings
- Percentage of facilities compliant with financial assurance requirements
- Percentage of corrective actions addressed at audited facilities

- Environmental Compliance Management System scores for high-risk industrial sites

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

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Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic Priority: Engaged high-performing employees

Ministry Goal

High-performing organization committed to excellence

Strategy

Strengthen a shared understanding of service needs and expectations with stakeholders and partners.

Key Actions

- Build capacity in the ministry to design and deliver service standards for public-facing programs.
- Develop guidance for staff to better engage with First Nations and Métis communities.

Strategy

Increase public access to information and services.

Key Actions

- Enhance online geomatics access and tools for public and business.
- Examine opportunities to increase ministry business services online.

Strategy

Build a positive culture that drives high performance through strong leadership, diversity and engagement.

Key Actions

- Develop targets and actions for increasing employee engagement.
- Develop targets and actions to maintain corporate knowledge through mentoring, succession and hiring practices.

Strategy

Provide a safe and flexible workplace for staff.

Key Actions

- Identify and implement actions to reduce workplace injuries (by 12.5% annually or 50% over four years).
- Develop a mental health and well-being plan to enhance mental health awareness.

Strategy

Develop and maintain a collaborative culture of accountability and continuous improvement.

Key Actions

- Refine ministry performance measures.
- Refine processes for accountability and transparency.

Performance Measures

- Number of business transactions completed online (Hunting and Angling Licences)
- Percentage of clients satisfied with front-line programs and services

Highlights

2018-19 Budget Highlights:

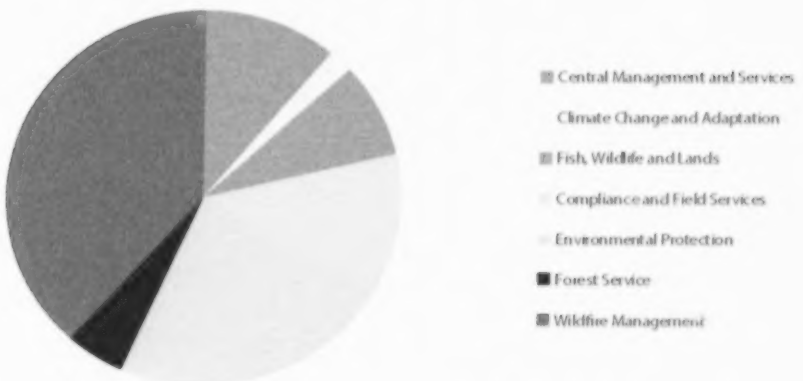
- The budget includes $5.7M for the La Ronge hangar and apron upgrade, which represents a $2.2M increase in continued funding for the Aerial Fleet Sustainability Project to expand and improve critical infrastructure used by the Wildfire Management Program.
- The budget includes an increase of $215K for wildfire prevention and mitigation programming to expedite required mitigation work.
- An additional $175K in new capital funding is included for the replacement of the current Saskatchewan Air Monitoring Laboratory which has reached its useful life expectancy.
- The budget includes an $8.7M decrease in capital funding associated with the completion of the CL215T air tanker conversion.
- A $300K decrease reflects the second and final year of wind-down of the Forest Renewal Program.
- The budget includes $2.0M to help support transition and integration requirements for the ministry's conservation officer service as part of the new provincial Protection and Response Team to address public safety in rural communities and on highways.
- The budget includes an increase to environmental handling charges on all beverage containers by $.02 to help support the operation of SARCAN's Beverage Container Collection and Recycling Program, and to enable the ministry to maintain its oversight of solid waste management programs.
- The budget includes $2.0M to help support and implement commitments made by the Government of Saskatchewan in its Prairie Resilience climate change strategy.
- In an effort to better position priorities related to fish and wildlife work, four programs will be transferred to – and delivered through – the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, resulting in ministry savings of $430K.

Financial Summary

2018-19 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	$ 17,516
Climate Change and Adaptation	3,252
Fish, Wildlife and Lands	13,103
Compliance and Field Services	19,367
Environmental Protection	37,129
Forest Service	7,801
Wildfire Management	61,369
Total Appropriation	**159,537**
Remediation of Contaminated Sites	(45)
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(10,145)
Capital Asset Amortization	12,923
Total Expense	**162,270**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry of Environment, Budget 2018-19



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/environment